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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/802,121	03/16/2004	Robert W. McCullough	Q121141	3527
32912	7590	02/15/2006	EXAMINER	
HAYWARD A. VERDUN, LLP			JAGAN, MIRELLYS	
P.O. BOX 698			ART UNIT	
CENTERVILLE, LA 70522			PAPER NUMBER	
			2859	

DATE MAILED: 02/15/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/802,121	MCCULLOUGH ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Mirellys Jagan	2859	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 September 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 22-28 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 and 29-33 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>Translation of JP03154857</u> |

SUPPLEMENTARY DETAILED ACTION

This Office action includes the rejection of claim 29 under 102(b), which was inadvertently omitted from the previous Office action, which was mailed on 12/02/05.

Election/Restrictions

1. Claims 22-28 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 9/19/05. In addition, Applicant's traversal of the election of species requirement is persuasive. Accordingly, the election of species requirement is withdrawn.

The restriction requirement with respect to claims 22-28 is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

Drawings

2. Figures 4 and 5A-5D should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). Corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application.

The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-6, 10-16, 18, and 30-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,562,345 to Heyman et al [hereinafter Heyman].

Heyman discloses a method of testing a structure comprising:

depositing energy within at least a portion of a volume of the structure;

detecting transient temperatures at a surface of the structure caused by diffusion of the energy using an IR detector;

automatically analyzing the detected transient temperatures by a computer processor;

determining whether a flaw is present in the structure;

recording a location of one or more detected flaws in the structure; and

providing a visual indication when a flaw is detected;

wherein the deposited energy is induction heating; the diffusion of the deposited energy forms a pattern; the frequency of the deposited energy is varied to produce a resonating effect within the structure; the deposited energy includes multiple energy frequencies; and the structure includes a metallic portion and a non-metallic portion, i.e. two dissimilar materials (see column 1, lines 25-31; column 3, line 26-column 4, line 2; column 5, lines 10-17 and 46-49).

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5. Claim 29 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 03154857 to Ogura et al [hereinafter Ogura].

Ogura discloses a method for non-destructive testing of a structure, the method comprising the steps of:

applying a DC current to at least a portion of a volume of the structure; and
detecting transient temperatures at a surface of the structure caused by diffusion of the deposited energy (see page 4, 3rd full paragraph of the translation).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Heyman in view of U.S. Patent 6,394,646 to Ringermacher et al [hereinafter Ringermacher].

Heyman discloses a method having all of the limitations of claims 7-9, as stated above in paragraph 4, except for the IR detector being an IR video camera.

Ringermacher discloses that it is known in the art to use an IR video camera in thermography techniques to test a composite structure for flaws. The IR video camera is useful since it records and stores successive thermal images of the structure over time to visually obtain the presence of the flaw (see column 2, lines 36-52).

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It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method of Heyman by using an IR video camera as the IR detector since Ringermacher discloses that IR video cameras are commonly used in the art as IR detectors in thermographic testing of materials for recording and storing the presence of flaws.

8. Claims 17 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Heyman in view of the prior art disclosed by Applicant on paragraph 63 of the specification [hereinafter Prior Art].

Heyman discloses a method having all of the limitations of claims 17 and 19, as stated above in paragraph 4, and further discloses that thermographic techniques are used in the art for testing flaws in laminated structures such as those used in the aerospace industry, i.e., the laminated structure is an aircraft (column 1, lines 25-31).

Heyman does not disclose the material of the aircraft being comprised of a metal, a boron-epoxy skin, and a honeycomb panel.

It is known in the Prior Art that a typical composite structure used on some major aerodynamic surfaces, such as an F-14 and F-15 fighter aircraft, is made up of a metal, a boron-epoxy skin, and a honeycomb panel.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method of Heyman by replacing the structure with a structure as known in the Prior Art, since the prior art teaches that the structure is typically used in the art as the structure of an aircraft.

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9. Claims 20 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Heyman and the Prior Art, as applied to claims 17 and 19 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent 5,709,469 to White et al [hereinafter White].

Heyman and the Prior Art disclose a method having all of the limitations of claims 20 and 21, as stated above in paragraph 8, except for the structure being the wing of the F-15.

White discloses that the wing of an aircraft is an important structure to thermally test for flaws since it experiences stress during flight and therefore is likely to incur flaws (column 1, lines 18-27 and 40-42; and column 2, lines 25-31).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method of Heyman and the Prior Art by testing the wing of the aircraft since White teaches that the wing is a location of an aircraft that is likely to incur flaws during flight.

Conclusion

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mirellys Jagan whose telephone number is 571-272-2247. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 11AM to 5PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Diego Gutierrez can be reached on 571-272-2245. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

MJ
February 6, 2006



Diego Gutierrez
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